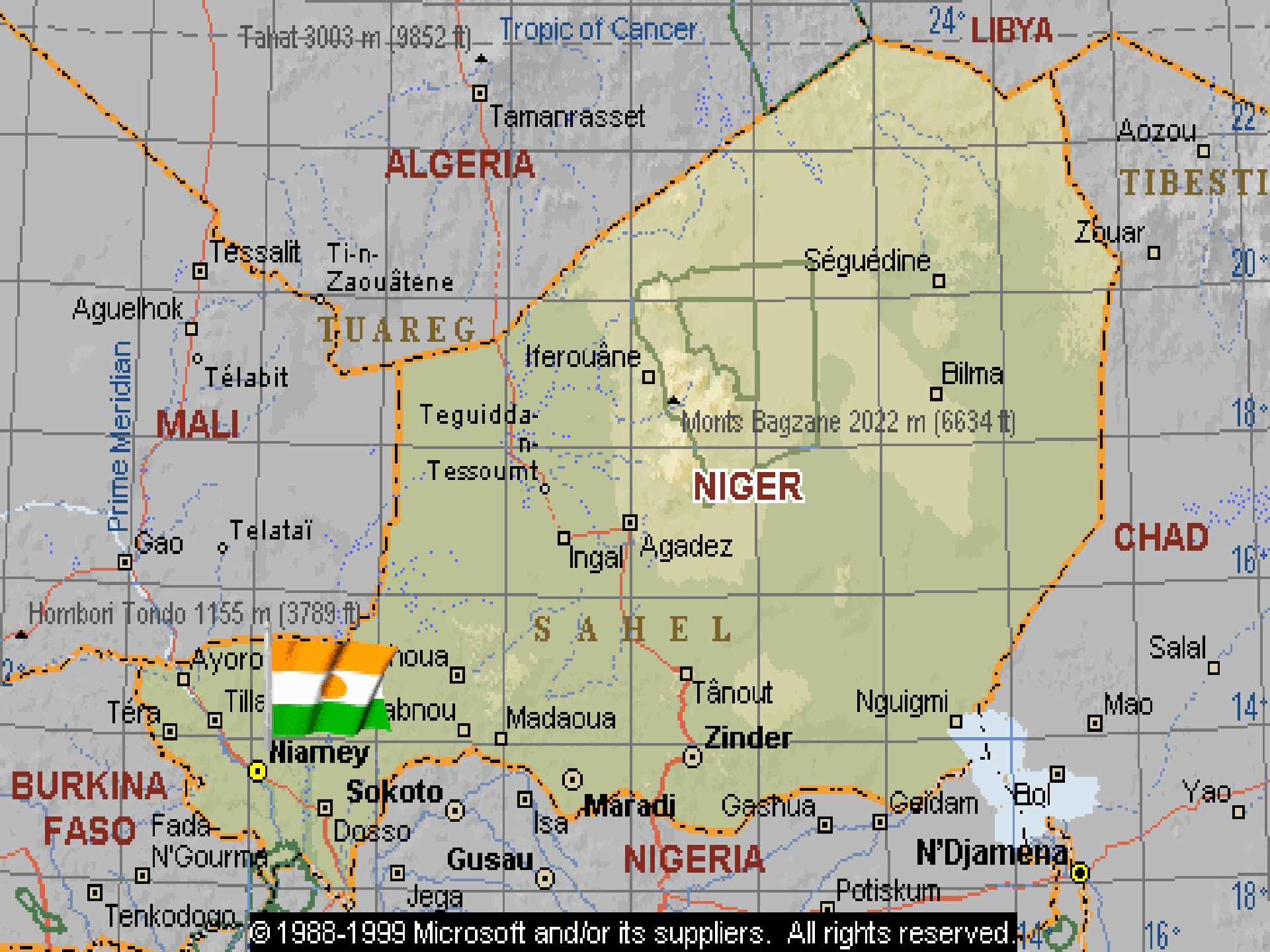
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

NIGER

(Republique du Niger)



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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Niger

Capital: Niamey

Population: 9,962,242 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: Pres Ibrahim BAR Mainassara

Official language(s) French, Hausa

Economy: Agriculture based

Religions: Islam (80%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Niamey

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: Rue des Ambassades, Naimey
Tel: 227-72-26-61 thru 64 FAX: 227-73-31-67

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor.

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require passports and visas. Military personnel on leave do not require clearance or advance notice. Identification cards and orders are required. Passports and visas are required for all travelers including aircrew members. For official travel, no-fee passports are required. US citizens are encouraged to contact the American Embassy in Niamey upon arrival to register and receive a security update.

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required. All video cassettes will be impounded upon arrival at Niamey airport for viewing by customs officials. Cassettes are normally returned to owner if no questionable contents are found.

Duty-free entry for personal effects: two cameras and l0 rolls of film, jewelry, portable typewriter if necessary for work, cigarette lighter, electric razor, record player and records, tobacco, and two quarts of liquor.

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Tourism facilities are minimal, particularly outside of Niamey. Tourists are free to take pictures anywhere in Niger, except near military installations, radio and television stations, the Presidency building, airport and the Kennedy Bridge. Tourists should also not photograph political and student demonstrations. Firearms are prohibited. Due to poor line quality, callers often experience delays in getting a telephone line and telefaxes are often garbled.

Amembassy hours are Mon-Fri, 0800L-1630L. In event of an emergency, call Chief, USOMC or Admin NCO at home. Amembassy, USOMC, and Nigerian government workweek is Mon thru Fri. All US and Nigerian holidays are observed by

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Declare currency. There is no limit on imports of foreign currency or travelers checks. Local currency (the CFA Franc) or foreign currency, up to the equivalent of four thousand dollars, can be taken into or out of Niger without violating the law. Imports and exports of CFA Francs are limited to 50,000. Currency can be exchanged at banks and some hotels (hotel rates usually less favorable). Limited currency exchange is available at embassy for official travelers. Adequate records are required for extensive business transactions involving large sums.

Rate: Approximate: 500 CFA francs for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, heat injuries and industrial pollution.

Availability of medical services: Poor. Medical facilities are poor in Niger, particularly outside the city of Niamey. Medicines are in short supply.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Niger. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions: A current meningitis vaccination is recommended. Do not get cholera vaccination but try to have shot record annotated "cholera vaccination not received for medical reasons." Yellow fever vaccination required for all travelers over one year of age. The risk of Malaria in Niger is significant. Ensure anti-malaria treatment is started at least

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, meningococcal vaccine and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Niger. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Boil water or purify with tablets and use canned or dried milk. Wash fruits and vegetables with disinfectant and cook. Eat at recommended places. Antimalarial drugs and mosquito nets are recommended. U.S. citizens should avoid unnecessary travel, political rallies and street demonstrations and maintain security awareness at all times. U.S. travelers should exercise caution when traveling in Niger, as traffic accidents are frequent. Care must be taken on Niger's paved and unpaved roads to avoid farm animals, slow-moving donkey carts, and broken-down vehicles. These dangers are greater at night. Banditry is a continuing problem in northern and eastern Niger. There have been reported carjackings and highway robberies in remote areas of the country.

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Niamey is a critical crime post. Tourists should not walk alone around the Gaweye Hotel, National Museum, and on or near the Kennedy Bridge at any time. This area is especially prone to muggings (day and night) and should be avoided. Recent criminal events in Niger have included carjackings, home invasions, and muggings. Armed bandits are still active in northern and eastern Niger, especially on roads between major cities. Caution and common sense must be used at all times in order to avoid thieves and pick-pockets.The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to local police and to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Niger is strict on: Drugs.

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Civilian clothing is required outside of airport. Coolest clothing possible is recommended. Lightweight fall clothing is suitable for cool evenings in desert area. It is recommended that women of African appearance wear the traditional ankle-length wrap known as "pagnes," in order to avoid any incidents of harassment. Local culture and Islamic tradition encourage conservative dress for both men and women. There have been incidents of harassment of African women wearing Western clothes in the conservative towns along the southern border with Nigeria. Although U.S. citizens are not specific targets, travelers should be careful in choosing their attire.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

NIGER